

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 177563

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 177563

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ESCAP, XB, SOCI, SGEN

SUBJECT: ESCAP:SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

FOR RED

1. RED(BOEHM) IS REQUESTED TO PREPARE STATEMENT FOR U.S.REP ANNE ARMSTRONG ARRIVING BANGKOK, JULY 31. IN OUR VIEW STATEMENT MIGHT BE COMPOSED OF FOUR PARTS RELATING TO ITEMS 4(A)(I), 4(A)(II), THE WCIWY, AND SOCIAL WELFARE CONSIDERATIONS INCLUDING THOSE SUBSUMED UNDER ITEM 4(B).

2. REGARDING ITEM 4(A)(I): THIS IS SUBJECT OF HIGH IMPORTANCE; HOWEVER, SECRETARIAT'S TREATMENT OF IT (E/CN.11/SD/L.1) IS BRIEF AND OVERSIMPLIFIES A HIGHLY COMPLICATED SUBJECT. FORTUNATELY THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (A.I.D.) IS WELL-ADVANCED IN ITS EFFORTS TO DEFINE THE PROBLEM AND ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES FOR DEALING WITH IT, ALL OF WHICH ARE FULLY DESCRIBED IN A RECENT REPORT TO THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE. A COPY OF THE REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE USDEL (ADVISOR UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 177563

MARY CATHERINE JENNINGS IS CARRYING COPY). USAID MISSION/ BANGKOK IS INVOLVED AND FULLY INFORMED ON THIS SUBJECT. BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT FOR BOEHM, WITH HELP FROM USAID, GIVE

PRIORITY TO THIS AGENDA ITEM WITH VIEW TO ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR ELABORATING INPUT TO U.S. STATEMENT FOR GENERAL DEBATE AND U.S. POSITION WHEN AGENDA ITEM IS DISCUSSED, GIVING PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO ESCAP'S POSSIBLE FUTURE ROLE THIS REGARD.

3. RE ITEM 4(A)(II), WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT, BOEHM CAN EXPAND ON POSITION PAPER, DRAWING ON HIS OWN BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE WITH ESCAP IN THIS FIELD.

4. RE WCIWY U.S.DEL MAY DRAW ON EXPERIENCE OF U.S.REP ARMSTRONG AT MEXICO CITY. FOLLOWING TEXT PROVIDED AS APPROPRIATE FOR POSSIBLE USE: BEGIN QUOTE

- MR. CHAIRMAN: AS YOU KNOW, THE WORLD CONFERENCE FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR WAS HELD IN MEXICO FROM JUNE 19TH TO JULY 2ND. THE AGENDA DEALT WITH A BROAD NUMBER OF ISSUES DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND TO ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEX. CONFERENCE DISCUSSION CENTERED AROUND THE THREE GOALS OF THE YEAR; EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE. AT THE INAGURAL MEETING SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM MADE THE FOLLOWING REMARKS: "THE PROBLEMS WHICH CONFRONT US ARE COMMON TO US ALL. IF THE PRINCIPLES REGARDING EQUALITY OF THE SEXES ENUNCIATED AND GENERALLY AGREED IN THE CHARTER, THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THE MANY RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAD BEEN BUT INTO PRACTICE, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO NEED FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO DESIGNATE 1975 AS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR, NOR TO CONVENE A SPECIAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUBJECT. IT IS NOW OUR TASK TO CLOSE THE WIDE GAP BETWEEN DECLARATIONS OF PRINCIPLE AND ACTUAL PRACTICE."

- THE CONFERENCE WAS PRODIGIOUS IN ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS. AMONG THE MORE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS WAS A 45 PAGE DOCUMENT "THE WORLD PLAN OF ACTION" THAT PROVIDES A 10 YEAR BLUEPRINT TO PROMOTE EQUALITY FOR WOMEN AND TO FULLY UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 177563

INTEGRATE THEM IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL LIFE OF THEIR COUNTRIES INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. IT IS A FAR REACHING DOCUMENT ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS OF GOVERNMENTS PRESENT. CHAPTER II DETAILS NATIONAL ACTIONS CHAPTER V. "INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ACTION, CALLS UPON THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN THE PLAN OF ACTION AND TO PROVIDE NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH THE TECHNICAL AND INFORMATIONAL SUPPORT THEY REQUIRE TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES TO FURTHER THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN IN THEIR REGIONS. IT ADDS FURTHER, "WHERE THEY HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS SHOULD

ESTABLISH APPROPRIATE MACHINERY FOR THIS PURPOSE", AND IT SETS FORTH A VARIETY OF TECHNIQUES BY WHICH THIS COULD BE CARRIED OUT. THE U.S. DELEGATION BELIEVES THAT EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN AT THIS MEETING.

- THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING HAS BEGUN TO BE RECOGNIZED BY INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL BODIES THROUGHOUT THE UN SYSTEM. THE PLAN OF ACTION AND THE RESOLUTIONS OF THIS CONFERENCE HAVE REINFORCED RECOGNITION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONCEPT THAT WOMEN MUST BE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IF DEVELOPMENT IS TO SUCCEED. IT IS NOT ENOUGH, CONSIDERING THE BACKGROUND OF TRADITIONAL NON-PARTICIPATION, THAT THE DOORS TO SUCH PARTICIPATION NOW BE OPEN. AFFIRMATIVE ACTION TO PROMOTE, SUPPORT AND INSIST UPON THE ACTIVE PRESENCE OF WOMEN IS NECESSARY. IN VIRTUALLY ALL SOCIETIES TODAY, WHATEVER THEIR INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE OR STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT, NEW INITIATIVES WILL BE REQUIRED TO BRING THIS ABOUT. EQUALITY AND DEVELOPMENT THUS IMPLY BASIC CHANGES IN INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL. THEY IMPLY A NEW MENTALITY WHICH DISCARDS THE STEREOTYPES WHICH SEPARATE THE SPHERES OF WOMEN AND MEN AND CAST WOMEN IN Demeanor OR LIMITED ROLES. THEY REQUIRE POSITIVE EFFORTS TO BUILD UP NEW IMAGES OF WOMEN IN NEW ROLES, WHILE SEARCHING OUT AND DISCOURAGING THE USE OF SEX STEREOTYPES IN EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS, PUBLIC UTTERANCES AND IN ALL COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA. THE HANGOVERS OF PAST PRACTICES, CONDITIONS UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 177563

AND ATTITUDES CONSTITUTE OBSTACLES WHICH CHALLENGE THE DETERMINATION AND THE INGENUITY OF ALL WHO SEEK TO TRANSLATE THE AIMS OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR INTO ACHIEVEMENTS.

- OLD WAYS AND VIEWPOINTS PERSIST, DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE MINDS AND HABITS OF BOTH MEN AND WOMEN IN SPITE OF NEW OUT-LOOKS AND NEW SYSTEMS. THE EFFORTS TO RALLY WORLD OPINION THROUGH INTERNATIONAL DECLARATIONS THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY, AND THE EXAMPLES OFFERED BY SOME COUNTRIES IN FIELDS OF ACTION HAVE LAGGED BEHIND THE DEMANDS OF TODAY'S SOCIETY. WE IN THE UNITED STATES ARE COMMITTED TO PURSUIT OF THE GOAL OF EQUALITY AND DEVELOPMENT AND WE URGE THAT ALL DELEGATIONS STUDY THE PLAN OF ACTION OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE FOR IWY SO THAT THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC MAY MOVE QUICKLY TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE AND FULFILL THE REGIONAL COMMITMENT TO THE GOALS OF THE IWY -- EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE. END QUOTE

5. RE ITEM 4(B) SOCIAL WELFARE ASPECTS OF FAMILY PLANNING, PROGRAMS BOEHM MAY UTILIZE GUIDANCE PROVIDED

IN POSITION PAPER, EXPANDING IT AS REQUIRED WITH
ASSISTANCE OF U.S.DEL ADVISOR JENNINGS OF HEW.

6. ITEM 5(A), ASIAN CENTER FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH IN
SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT: NO FURTHER REFERENCE
SHOULD BE MADE TO U.S. CONTRIBUTION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF
DOMITORY FACILITIES TO BE USED INTER ALIA BY ACTRSWD.
AS EXPLAINED IN STATE 150775 SENT AIDAC INFO BANGKOK,
MONEY WAS IN FACT A GRANT TO PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT. IF
RED HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO, BELIEVE PRIVATE
CLARIFICATION SHOULD BE GIVEN SECRETARIAT. IF, HOWEVER,
IT DEVELOPS THAT CLARIFICATION ON FLOOR IS REQUIRED,
U.S.DEL SHOULD GIVE FACTUAL EXPLANATION OF NATURE OF U.S.
CONTRIBUTION.

7. NO POSITION PAPERS HAVE BEEN PREPARED ON ITEMS
4(A)(III) OR 5(B). IF U.S.DEL PERCEIVES NECESSITY OR
DESIRABILITY FOR U.S. INTERVENTION ON THESE ITEMS,
DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE ADVISED WITH RECOMMENDATION AS TO
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PAGE 05 STATE 177563

WHAT SHOULD BE SAID ON EACH ITEM. INGERSOLL

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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